



A SNAPSHOT OF THE GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY HEALTH

Overview

The Georgia Department of Community Health (DCH) was created in 1999 to serve as the lead agency for health care planning and purchasing issues in the state. The General Assembly created DCH by consolidating four agencies involved in purchasing, planning and regulating health care. DCH is also designated as the single state agency for Medicaid.

Divisions

The Division of Medical Assistance administers the Medicaid program, which provides health care for people who are aged, blind, disabled or indigent. The division also administers PeachCare for Kids, policy development and the Medicaid Waiver Programs.

The Office of General Counsel provides overall legal guidance and direction for the operations of the Department. This office also contains the Health Planning Division.

The Office of Inspector General is responsible for DCH's efforts to detect, prevent and investigate fraud and abuse in Medicaid, PeachCare for Kids, and the State Health Benefit Plan.

State Health Benefit Plan provides public employee health insurance coverage to active and retired state and school system employees and their dependents.

The Managed Care and Quality Division is responsible for establishing and directing the managed care efforts for Medicaid and PeachCare for Kids members.

The Division of Financial Management represents the financial interests of the Department. It is comprised of the Office of Planning and Fiscal Analyses, Financial and Accounting Services, Reimbursement Services and the Budget Office.

The Office of Legislative Affairs and External Affairs' primary responsibility is to work with the General Assembly and analyzes legislation that affects the Department's programs such as Medicaid, the State Health Benefit Plan and health care in general. This office also handles constituent services for the Department.

The Office of Communications oversees media relations, public relations, strategic communications and Web site operations for the Department.

The Operations Division consists of the Office of Vendor & Grant Management, Human Resources, Support Services, the Office of Health Policy and Strategy, and the Department's five Health Improvement Programs, which are the Office of Minority Health, the Office of Women's Health, the Georgia Commission on Men's Health, the Georgia Volunteers in Health Care program and the State Office of Rural Health.

Information Technology is responsible for promoting project management standards throughout DCH. The Medicaid Management Information System (MMIS) unit supports the various systems used for the processing, collecting, analyzing and reporting of information needed to support all Medicaid and PeachCare for Kids claim payment functions.

THE DCH CHAMPIONS

ACCESS	to affordable, quality health care in our communities
RESPONSIBLE	health planning and use of health care resources
HEALTHY	behaviors and improved health outcomes

ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

- Insuring more than 2.2 million Georgians
- Administering a budget that exceeds \$10 billion
- Coordinating health planning for state agencies
- Ensure quality health care services for a diverse population (state employees, public school teachers and employees, and recipients of Medicaid and PeachCare for Kids)

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Advisory Boards & Councils

The Board of Community Health is a nine-person board appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate, which has policy-making authority for the Department.

Health Information Technology and Transparency Advisory Board was created by the Governor and appointed by the Commissioner. This board advises DCH on the best practices for encouraging the use of electronic health records and establishing a statewide strategy to enable health information to be readily available and transparent.

The Minority Health Advisory Council is dedicated to improving the health of minority populations in the state of Georgia. The 12-member council, appointed by the DCH Commissioner, provides leadership in the development of a health care strategic plan that addresses improvements in the health status for minority populations.

The Health Strategies Council is responsible for developing Georgia's State Health Plan and addressing policy issues concerning access to health care services.

The Georgia Drug Utilization Review Board promotes patient safety through an increased review and awareness of outpatient prescribed drugs. The 20-member board, appointed by the DCH Commissioner, recommends medical criteria, standards and educational intervention methods used in the Drug Utilization Review program.

Georgia Commission on Men's Health promotes the improvement of the physical, social and mental health of men in the state of Georgia. The commission focuses on the development of statewide opportunities to promote awareness and disease prevention in men.

Women's Health Advisory Council promotes awareness of women's non-reproductive health issues in the state of Georgia.

Hospital Advisory Committee is comprised of 21 representatives of hospitals across the state. The committee's efforts focus around issues associated with the Disproportionate Share Hospital Program in the Indigent Care Trust Fund.

Georgia Physician Partnership is comprised of 10 physician representatives from across the state. The Partnership will offer the perspective of health care providers to the Georgia Department of Community Health.

HEALTH POLICY PRIORITIES 2007

- Medicaid Transformation
- Consumerism
- Financial Integrity of Health Care Programs
- Health Improvement and Resolving Disparities
- Uninsured: Community Based Solutions

MAJOR HEALTH CARE INITIATIVES



Attached Agencies

Composite State Board of Medical Examiners ensures quality health care for all Georgians by licensing qualified applicants as physicians, physician's assistants, physician residents in training, perfusionists, respiratory care professionals, acupuncturists and auricular (ear) detoxification specialists.

Georgia Board for Physician Workforce develops medical education programs to ensure that communities have enough physicians.

State Medical Education Board administers medical scholarships and loans to promote medical practice in rural areas.